

benefit to choose from several in-state colleges like their counterparts throughout the rest of the nation.

I believe that the city of Washington, DC should be a model to the rest of the nation. Ensuring that young people in DC have access to a good education is a great place to start.

I hope that my colleagues will overwhelmingly support this legislation, and show the students in the District of Columbia that we are committed to ensure they have every opportunity to succeed in life.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4012, which helps level the playing field for the students of D.C. by permanently expanding opportunities for affordable higher education at colleges and universities across the nation.

Too many children in our Nation's Capital are not getting the higher education they need and deserve, and this program gives many the opportunity to go to college.

D.C. residents do not have access to a network of in-state universities like residents of States. The D.C. College Access Program provides D.C. high school graduates access to colleges and universities throughout the country at in-State tuition rates.

The program has been a tremendous success since it was implemented in 1999. The number of D.C. high school graduates continuing on to college increased from 1,750 in 1998 to 2,230 in 2002. That's a 28 percent increase since the program was created.

It also provides an incentive to families to stay in the District. Before the program existed, families would often move to Virginia or Maryland to take advantage of in-State tuition rates for their children. This was a drain on the District's economy, exacerbating the District's dependence on the federal government.

By encouraging families to stay in D.C., we are helping to stabilize the District's tax base and reduce the local jurisdiction's financial dependence on the Federal Government.

The D.C. College Access Program is clearly having a positive impact on the educational opportunities available to D.C. high school students, and it is clear that students are becoming more aware of and choosing to take advantage of these opportunities.

Because of the program's tremendous success, and the support it gives to the youth in our Nation's Capital, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HARRIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4012, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title is amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to reauthorize for 5 additional years the public school and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

O.C. WELCH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, Americans remain frustrated and fed up with the liberal lopsided media. Worse than their decisive liberalness, Americans are tired of the media's pessimism: we cannot have democracy in the Middle East. We have to have the permission of the U.N. We will never get out of there without France and Germany.

One man in my district has taken matters into his own hands. At his own expense, O. C. Welch has taken out the following ad which he calls "The Rest of the Story." He lists all the good things that have happened in Iraq, from building schools to getting small businesses up and running, to getting hospitals open again, to bringing electricity back. He says, "There are many, many people in Iraq that want us there, and want us there bad. They say that they will never see the freedom we talk about, but they hope their children will. Our troops have performed brilliantly and have done a great job both during combat and reconstruction."

That is O. C. Welch's contribution to the cause. I think it is a good one. I know Mr. Welch. He is a self-made man. He started out selling used cars at the old Plantation Nightclub lot. He moved to Claxton, Georgia. Now he is in Beaufort. He is a family man, he is a generous giver to the Catholic church, but above all O. C. Welch is a great American and an optimist.

[From the Savannah Morning News, July 5, 2004]

THE REST OF THE STORY

THIS IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE POSITIVE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN IRAQ RECENTLY

Over 400,000 kids have up-to-date immunizations.

School attendance is up 80% from levels before the war.

Girls are allowed to attend school.

Over 1,500 schools have been renovated and rid of the weapons stored there so education can occur.

The port of Umm Qasr was renovated so grain can be off-loaded from ships faster.

The country had its first two billion barrel export of oil in August.

Over 4.5 million people have clean drinking water for the first time ever in Iraq.

The country now receives two times the electrical power it did before the war.

100% of the hospitals are open and fully-staffed, compared to 35% before the war.

Elections are taking place in every major city, and city councils are in place.

Sewer and water lines are installed in every major city.

Over 60,000 police are patrolling the streets.

Over 100,000 Iraqi civil defense police are securing the country.

Over 80,000 Iraqi soldiers are patrolling the streets side-by-side with U.S. soldiers.

Over 400,000 people have telephones for the first time ever.

Students are taught field sanitation and hand-washing techniques to prevent the spread of germs.

An interim constitution has been signed.

Textbooks that don't mention Saddam are in the schools for the first time in 30 years.

There are many, many people in Iraq that want us there, and want us there bad. They say that they will never see the freedom we talk about, but they hope their children will. Our troops have performed brilliantly and have done a great job both during combat and reconstruction.

God bless all of them and the job they do.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HENSARLING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)